

# Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program

*For the benefit of dairy producers and water quality across our valley*

## **Board Members**

### **Tom Barcellos**

*Chairman*

*District 1*

*(Tulare County)*

### **Ray Gene Veldhuis**

*Vice Chairman*

*District 2*

*(Merced/Madera Counties)*

### **Stephen Brown**

*Secretary*

*District 3*

*(Kern/Fresno/Kings Counties)*

### **Rodney Kamper**

*Treasurer*

*District 3*

*(Kern/Fresno/Kings Counties)*

### **Joey Airosso**

*District 1*

*(Tulare County)*

### **Jeff Troost**

*District 2*

*(Merced/Madera Counties)*

### **Justin Gioletti**

*District 4*

*(Stanislaus County)*

### **Tony Ott**

*District 4*

*(Stanislaus County)*

### **Arlan Van Leeuwen**

*District 5*

*(Other Central Valley Counties)*

### **Bill Van Ryn**

*District 5*

*(Other Central Valley Counties)*

### **Steve Staas**

*At-large*

### **Scott Wickstrom**

*At-large*

April 1, 2013

To: Clay L. Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer  
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

From: J.P. Cativiela, Program Administrator  
Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program (CVDRMP)

Re: Submittal of CVDRMP's first annual report

Dear Mr. Rodgers:

On behalf of the CVDRMP Board of Directors and to comply with the requirements of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (as revised Feb. 23, 2011) for General Order R5-2007-0035, CVDRMP has submitted its first Annual Representative Monitoring Report (ARMR) for 2012.

This annual report was prepared by CVDRMP's duly authorized Technical Program Manager, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE). We thank them for their excellent technical work to date, as represented in their report. We also acknowledge the more than 1,200 Central Valley dairy families who provided the organizational and financial support necessary to launch and manage this effort. This report has been presented to and reviewed by our Board, which has now approved its submittal to your agency.

As we reach this initial milestone, we are pleased to report that the monitoring program is performing as designed. This program is currently the largest of its kind in California, and likely anywhere in the United States. We are progressing according to schedule toward developing an information base to assess compliance and, where needed, refine and improve management practices. Equally important, this cost-effective program allows for efficient data collection and analysis without placing additional, unnecessary economic burdens on dairies that have struggled economically in recent years.

As anticipated and designed, initial data collected from this effort confirm that first-encountered groundwater beneath dairy facilities is affected by historic and/or current dairy farming practices, and suggests that application of fertilizer to crops plays a major role. This provides preliminary confirmation of previous work by the University of California, while building a strong foundation to expand on that previous knowledge and to develop strategies for improvement.

Importantly, the design of the dedicated monitoring wells in this program is fundamentally different from that of drinking water wells. Data from the monitoring wells are therefore not indicative of actual impacts to drinking water. Constituent concentrations in groundwater alone are not a valid indicator of effective versus non-effective management practices. Because of this, it remains our goal to refine our understanding of the relationship between monitoring data and farming practices, and to develop strategies for improving efficiency of fertilizer

management. This is broadly recognized as an important long-term goal for all of agriculture.

Further, and as you know, this program goes well beyond well monitoring; these data represent the first of several important stages in our multi-year effort. Data in this report cover only initial Group 1 dairies in Stanislaus and Merced counties. Beginning this year, additional well monitoring is occurring at an additional 24 dairies from Tehama to Kern counties, more than doubling the number of dairy sites. Beginning this year, we will commence field studies toward improving nutrient storage and management practices and developing additional data. Throughout the process, we will continue to convene expert panels to guide our work.

In short, the program is off to an excellent start. There remains much work ahead, yet our Board is confident that we are on course to provide valuable information, insight and a roadmap for improvement as this multi-year effort proceeds.